

FURIOUS FLAMES

WILMINGTON'S BIG BLAZE.

A Muzzle Steamer, from Fire to Vainable Property, Destroyed by Fire.

A Wilmington (N. C.) special of Sunday says: "The steamer Bladen, plying between this city and Fayetteville, N. C., caught fire this afternoon about 4 o'clock just before reaching her wharf, and owing to the inflammable nature of her cargo, consisting of resin, spirits of turpentine, and cotton, was immediately enveloped in flames. The pilot headed her for the nearest available wharf, and the passengers succeeded in escaping, some by boats from adjoining vessels and others by jumping overboard, when they were quickly rescued. The steamer landed against the wharf of the New York and Wilmington Steamship Company, and the fire was quickly communicated to the sheds and warehouses. All the wharves and sheds being saturated with resin and turpentine, the spread of the fire was rapid, and despite the efforts of the firemen, it became a disastrous conflagration. There was a gale of wind blowing at the time from the southwest, and soon the blocks on the water-front were burning furiously.

At about eight o'clock the fire was gotten under control, but not until it had destroyed \$150,000 worth of property. Starting from Chestnut street, the New York Steamship Company's wharf and warehouse were burned; next the store of F. W. Kerchner, the store and offices of Kerchner & Coldwell, Worth & Worth, O. G. Parsley, Alexander Sprunt & Son, Chubb's gun and lumber mill, the furniture stores of G. G. Bonney & Co., B. Wright, flour and grist mills, the Champion Flouring and Warehouse Company. The freight warehouses of the Wilmington and Weldon and Wilmington, Columbia and Augusta Railroad Companies, and several sailors' boarding houses were also destroyed, and in addition to the steamer Bladen the steamer River Queen, of the same line, was burned to the water's edge. The American schooner Lillie Holmes, not being able to get out of reach of the flames, was also burned, and will prove a total loss. Over \$250,000 worth of goods were burned in one warehouse. Owing to sparks wafted by the high wind numerous private dwellings caught fire and were burned to the ground, including those of the Hon. George Davis, Colonel E. R. Brink, Mr. Solomon Baer, and about thirty others. In addition a block of small tenements occupied by colored people was completely swept away, although nearly a mile distant from the main fire. The general offices of the Atlantic Coast Line were destroyed, and the valuable papers and records. The Front Street Methodist church was included in the list of buildings burned, and is a total loss.

Owing to the general demoralization incident to the fire it is impossible to ascertain to-night the individual losses or losses of the insurance companies. The telegraph lines in the streets were pulled down, and communication is difficult. So many poor people are burned out that fears are entertained of serious distress, and active efforts are being made to relieve all suffering. Quite a handsome sum has already been raised and others are contributing. The guests of the Orton House have raised a munificent sum of about \$50,000, being distributed to those most in need.

(By telegraph to the Dispatch.)
WILMINGTON, N. C., February 22.—The loss by yesterday's fire is fortunately much less than at first reported. The total loss is now estimated at \$500,000 and the insurance at \$400,000. Some of the principal losses are as follows:

Schooner Lillie Holmes (loaded with gum), loss \$100,000; no insurance; the steamer Bladen, loss \$50,000; no insurance; the Front Street Methodist Episcopal church, loss \$3,000; no insurance; the business houses of Worth & Worth, Alexander Sprunt & Son, G. B. Wright, J. H. Honey, Kerchner & Coldwell, the furniture stores of G. G. Bonney & Co., B. Wright, and the Champion Flouring Company, were all partly insured. In the Brooklyn section of the city nineteen buildings were destroyed, causing a loss of \$15,000, with but little insurance. Among the buildings burned in this part of the city were St. Barnabas's school house (colored), Trinity M. E. church, and a number of small dwellings and stores. While the Front Street church was burning a negro fell from the roof and broke both his legs. Several other accidents occurred during the progress of the fire, but not of a serious nature.

CINCINNATI ELECTION RETURNS.

(By telegraph to the Dispatch.)
CINCINNATI, February 22.—The decision of Judge Wylie, of Columbus, in the *Kellogg* case of Daniel J. Dalton, creates the liveliest interest here. The Fourth Ward returns, which are the subject of controversy, are now in the hands of the chairman of the Senate committee of the House, and a session will be held to-day for the purpose of taking testimony concerning the election. A motion to photograph the returns is now pending before that committee. It was not able to meet this morning, owing to the illness of Senator Coulter, a Republican member; but it is thought he will be able to serve some time during the day. Rumors of an attempt to create a disturbance in the committee room, and destroy the returns, brought a number of persons into the hotel lobby. Daniel Dalton is here, and says he will do as his attorney says about going to Columbus. His attorney proposes to appeal the case to the Supreme Court.

Fire Loss in Pittsburgh.

(By telegraph to the Dispatch.)
PITTSBURGH, February 22.—A fire at Pollard's liquor-store this morning caused a loss of \$100,000. The building was a four-story structure and was entirely consumed, the loss on the building and stock being \$50,000. The fire doing business in the adjoining buildings sustaining damages from water are as follows: Acme Tanning Company, \$20,000; Joseph Barkley & Co., glass dealers, \$10,000; the Iron City Glass Company; Watson & Co., grain dealers; Charles Irwin, grain dealer; and McCullough & Co., liquor dealers, \$10,000.

Will Return to Work.

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PITTSBURGH, Pa., February 22.—At a largely-attended delegate convention of the coke-workers at Scottdale to-day it was decided to accept the advance offered by the operators and return to work at once. In a minority report, the Hungarians decided to stand out until all their prisoners are released from jail. Among the other matters discussed was store-orders and large wagons, but the miners agreed to return to work and let these matters be adjusted under the law.

General Delgados.

(By telegraph to the Dispatch.)
KEY WEST, FLA., February 22.—The steamer City of Mexico is still here. The parties here who had been requested by General Delgado's friends in New York to protect his interests and look out for his personal comfort if

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(By telegraph to the Dispatch.)
MAY, PA., February 22.—There was a general resumption of work in the coke region to-day. It was feared that the Hungarians would

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

THE TELEPHONE SCANDAL.

What Causes the Delay—The Appropriation of the Blair Education Bill—American War.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)
WASHINGTON, February 22.—There has been some unfair criticism upon the Democrats for delaying a report upon the proposition of Mr. Hanback, of Kansas, to enlarge the powers of the Committee on Expenditures of the Department of Justice so as to enable it to make a full investigation of the "Pan-Atlantic" scandal. The sole cause of delay has been the fact that Mr. Randall, a member of the Committee on Rules, has been absent for a week. But no sound reason can be given for great haste in the matter, even if all of the members of the committee had been in the city. Mr. Randall is expected to return to-morrow, and if his engagement as a member of the Committee on Appropriations and the Ordnance Commission do not interfere, the telephone matter may be considered by the Committee on Rules this week.

The distribution of the appropriation bills among several committees has not thus far had the effect of bringing the general appropriation into the House very early in the session, which was promised